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independent in their own fields, but the union is intended to enable them to throw the whole weight of their influence, in a large and constructive way, into the strengthening and advancement of the cause, which had already begun to suffer by the lack of unity and coherence among the various forces already working for the peace of the world.

It is the purpose of the Directors of the American Peace Society to complete as quickly as possible the organization of the national forces working for peace by the creation of branch societies in all the States where none now exist. Since the adoption of this federative plan at the annual meeting new State branches have already been organized in Vermont and Rhode Island, and two or three others are nearly ready to be announced.

Another feature of the new plan of work is to establish departments in certain groups of States throughout the country as fast as possible, in order that the work in each of these sections may have the constant benefit of the services of a strong worker giving himself entirely to that particular field. A new department, as announced on another page has just been organized for the South Atlantic States, with headquarters at Atlanta, making five such departments already in operation.

It was strongly felt at the annual meeting that, in spite of the discouragement naturally following from the wars and disturbances now going on in various parts of the world, there is every reason for the peace forces to be encouraged to continue and further enlarge their operations, as all the great currents of civilization and progress are setting steadily toward the grand consummation for which the American Peace Society and other similar organizations have been steadily working for so many years. We ask the loyal and hearty co-operation of all the pacifists of the country in this new effort to increase the power and efficiency of the peace forces of the nation.

The Lake Mohonk Arbitration Conference.

The Eighteenth Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration, held May 15 to 17, was on the whole a worthy successor to those which had gone before. About the usual number of guests, 300 or more, had accepted Mr. Smiley's invitation to enjoy his generous hospitality for the days of the conference.

We observed an unusual number of new faces in the meetings, and the absence of many of those who had often participated in former conferences was particularly noticeable. Only six of those, outside of the Smiley family, who attended the first conference in 1895 were present this year. The South and West, Canada and South America were more strongly represented than usual, and the number of guests from Europe and Asia added an interesting feature and gave

the conference more of an international character than it had ever before had. Among these latter were Dr. A. Gobat, secretary of the International Peace Bureau at Berne; Dr. Christian L. Lange, director of the Inter-parliamentary Union Bureau at Brussels; Baron de Neufville and wife and daughter, of Frankfort; Dr. Otfried Nippold, of the University of Berne; Abdul Baha, the distinguished Persian teacher, and a group of Persians with him; Dr. K. Assakawa, a distinguished Japanese scholar, now professor at Yale; Jean de Puigny, a distinguished French engineer; Rustom Rustomjee and wife, of India, and a fine group of Canadians.

The speaking in the conference was on the whole of a high order. A few of the addresses were exceptionally strong, and we hope to give our friends the pleasure of reading some of these in the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* during the summer months. There was, necessarily, a good deal of repetition of what had been said in previous conferences, and some of the remarks were distinctly platitudinous.

There was a touch of discouragement in the gathering, especially in the earlier part, over the fate in the Senate of the arbitration treaties which had aroused so much enthusiasm throughout the country. But the conference soon rallied from this, and did not waste much time in mourning over the failure of the Senate to rise to a high sense of its responsibility and an adequate appreciation of the unusual opportunity which had come to it. Mohonk set its face again resolutely toward the future, in the belief that the apparent setback given by the Senate to the principles of universal, unlimited arbitration will soon be overcome by the evident determination of the people of the country to perfect such a system of settlement of international disputes as will make recurrence of war between this and any other country practically impossible.

On the question of limitation of armaments, the most urgent political question of the day, the conference did not, to our regret, take again the positive and unequivocal stand which it took a year ago, though the platform adopted proved that the members as a whole were not inclined to recede from their previous attitude.

The reports of the meetings have been widely circulated in the public press, and we are sure that the influence of the conference will be widespread throughout the nation, and in Europe as well, and will prove a strong support to the President in carrying through the plans for the further advancement of the peace movement which he is understood to be preparing for the coming winter.

We give below the platform which was adopted on the last day, which sums up in a concise and admirable way the sense of the conference:

PLATFORM OF THE CONFERENCE.

The Eighteenth Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration expresses its profound gratitude to the President of the United States for his illustrious service for the cause of international peace in the effort for the arbitration treaties with Great Britain and France. We believe that the President, in this memorable effort, represented the great popular sentiment of the American people; and, deplored the defeat for the moment of his high purpose, we call upon the people for unremitting endeavor to secure the early conclusion of treaties of equal or broader scope with the great nations of the world.

It is pre-eminently the duty of the United States to maintain strong leadership in this commanding cause. We gratefully remember the initiative of its government for the second Hague Conference and for the establishment of the Court of Arbitral Justice; we record with satisfaction the recent ratification by the Senate of the United States of the Declaration of London which makes it possible to establish the International Prize Court, the convention for which was previously ratified by the United States Senate, and on the eve of the creation of the committee to prepare the program for the third conference, we urge such broad and advanced American action as shall contribute to secure the most efficient basis of organization and procedure for this and future conferences, the adoption of a general arbitration treaty, the marked development of the international court, and united action for the limitation of armaments, the decrease of which should correspond to the steady increase of the instrumentalities for the legal and peaceful settlement of disputes.

We emphasize anew the need of earnest efforts everywhere for such a public opinion as shall compel the powers party to the Hague Conventions to respect the same in letter and spirit and to resort to no hostilities until all possible means of peaceful settlement are exhausted.

The Lake Mohonk Conference, which has given to business men so prominent a place in its activities, views with peculiar satisfaction the fact that the International Congress of Chambers of Commerce, which has always conspicuously recognized the cause of arbitration, has given it the first place on the program of its coming session in this country. At a time when commercial interests are recognizing, as never before, that the system of war and growing armaments violates the first principles of economy and good business, we welcome this great Congress as an occasion of the largest promise for international advance.

The presence at this conference of representatives of so many countries, and especially of the general secretaries of the two chief international agencies of the peace movement, the Interparliamentary Union and the International Peace Bureau, is an inspiring evidence of the broadening co-operation of the world's peace workers. We greet with satisfaction the multiplying interchanges of teachers and students and every movement that brings the peoples closer together. International work must be internationally done, and only pervasive and persistent education can create the international mind which is the only sure defense from the dangers always liable to arise from false patriotism and selfish political ambitions. To this high work of education we urge

increased devotion from every agency which shapes public opinion.

Editorial Notes.

The McCall Resolution.

The anti-conquest resolution introduced by Hon. Samuel W. McCall, of Massachusetts, was favorably reported from the House Committee on Foreign Affairs at the middle of last month. The resolution authorizes the President to instruct the delegates of the United States to the next Hague Conference and the Pan-American Conference to express to these bodies the desire of the United States "that in all treaties of arbitration, amity, and peace to be negotiated by the signatory powers in the future, a preamble be inserted by which the powers mutually recognize their national independence, territorial integrity, and absolute sovereignty in domestic affairs, and that they will not seek to increase their territories by conquest, and to endeavor to secure a declaration to that effect from the conferences."

The Foreign Affairs Committee believes that the acceptance of the principle of the resolution by the powers would be a long step forward toward preparing the conditions of permanent peace, and Mr. McCall feels that this would help to solve the problem of limitation and reduction of armaments, and that it would do much to allay the feeling of some of the countries south of us that we desire to obtain a part of their territory. We shall await with interest the action of the House and the Senate on this most important proposition.

A New Department.

The establishment of a department of the work of the American Peace Society for the South Atlantic States has been under contemplation for some two years past. Way has at last opened for its inauguration. The headquarters of the department will be located at Atlanta, where it will be in co-operation with the Georgia Peace Society, which was organized more than a year ago, with Dr. Henry C. White, of the University of Georgia, as president, and Dr. George Brown, of Atlanta, as secretary. The department will be opened at Atlanta the 1st of September. Prominent men of Atlanta who have been consulted on the subject have expressed themselves as delighted with the action of the society in creating this department at Atlanta, and have declared their purpose to co-operate in every way possible. Among these are Mr. Clark Howell, of the *Atlanta Constitution*; Rev. Dr. R. S. MacArthur, Dr. George Brown, and others. Dr. J. J. Hall, pastor of the First Baptist Church, of Fayetteville, N. C., has been chosen as the director of the department. Dr. Hall has been for many years deeply interested in the peace movement. He has spoken often on the subject, and secured